

CLAIMS

1 1. A system for providing an updated database service to be available to third
2 party subscribers, including maintaining a listing of undesirable destinations, said
3 system comprising:
4 a directory identifying the third party subscribers to the updated database
5 service;
6 a database for listing the undesirable destinations, said database accessible to
7 the third party subscribers; and
8 a switch device connected to said database to disable any particular
9 telecommunication initiated by a communication sender on behalf of a third party
10 subscriber that is directed to an undesirable destination listed in the database.

1 2. The system of claim 1 further comprising:
2 a communications network for transmitting telecommunications, said
3 communications network comprising a network node to identify telecommunications
4 sent on behalf of said third party subscribers

1 3. The system of claim 1 wherein said switch device disables said particular
2 telecommunication by causing an audible message to be directed back to the
3 communication sender.

1 4. The system of claim 3 wherein said audible message comprises a verbal
2 message.

1 5. The system of claim 3 wherein said audible message comprises a
2 predetermined pattern of audible sounds.

1 6. The system of claim 1 wherein said switch device adds a code identifier to
2 the telecommunication, said code identifier preventing completion of a
3 telecommunication to an undesirable destination listed in the database.

1 7. The system of claim 6 wherein said code identifier automatically prevents
2 completion of a telecommunication to an undesirable destination without any
3 intervention or action by the communication sender.

1 8. The system of claim 1 wherein the communication sender comprises
2 automated equipment for initiating the telecommunication, and said switch device
3 causes a disabling message to be routed back to said automated equipment in order to
4 prevent completion of the telecommunication.

1 9. The system of claim 1 wherein the communication sender is a human agent
2 for initiating the telecommunication, and said switch device causes an announcement
3 message to be routed back to said human agent in order to prevent completion of the
4 telecommunication.

1 10. The system of claim 1 further comprising:
2 a communications network for transmitting the sales, promotional, survey or
3 informational telecommunications, said communications network comprising one or
4 more of the following: wireless, cable, Internet, satellite, radio, television, power
5 lines, LAN, WAN, PSTN.

1 11. The system of claim 1 further comprising:
2 a communications network for transmitting telecommunications comprising
3 one or more of the following types of messages: voice, text, alphanumeric, fax, data,
4 image, audio, video.

1 12. The system of claim 1 further comprising:
2 database management means in communication with said database for
3 downloading periodic revisions to be incorporated into said database.

1 13. The system of claim 1 wherein said database comprises a do-not-contact
2 list.

1 14. A method for enabling multiple telemarketing entities to subscribe to a
2 database service for preventing completion of telecommunication messages sent via a
3 communications network to selected undesirable destinations, comprising:
4 maintaining a database accessible through the communications network, said
5 database comprising a listing of undesirable destinations;
6 creating a directory of subscribing telemarketing entities that are authorized
7 users of the updated database service;
8 uniquely identifying at a network mode particular telecommunication
9 messages sent from or on behalf of the subscribing telemarketing entities;
10 comparing a destination address of such uniquely identified
11 telecommunication messages with the undesirable destinations in said database; and
12 blocking further transmission or delivery of any such uniquely identified
13 telecommunication message that matches an undesirable destination in said database.

1 15. The method of claim 14 which further comprises maintaining a common
2 periodically updated database accessible to said authorized users of said database.

1 16. The method of claim 14 wherein said uniquely identified
2 telecommunication messages include an inband identification associated with said
3 authorized users of said database.

1 17. The method of claim 14 which further comprises transmitting the
2 telecommunication messages via one or more of the following: wireless, cable,
3 Internet, satellite, radio, television, power lines, LAN, WAN, PSTN.

1 18. The method of claim 14 which further comprises transmitting one or more
2 of the following types of telecommunication messages: voice, text, alphanumeric,
3 fax, data, image, audio, video.

1 19. A method of blocking certain telecommunications sent via a
2 communication network by telemarketers that subscribe to a “do-not-contact”
3 database service, said method comprising:
4 maintaining a directory of the subscribing telemarketers;
5 identifying at a network node selected telecommunication messages
6 transmitted from said subscribing telemarketers;
7 screening all such selected telecommunication messages to compare an
8 intended destination with a database of “do-not-contact” destinations; and
9 blocking screened messages from being delivered to an intended destination
10 that is listed on said database.

1 20. The method of claim 19 wherein said directory comprises a list of
2 originating message addresses for subscribing telemarketers, and said identifying
3 recognizes said originating message addresses.

1 21. The method of claim 19 which further comprises periodically updating
2 the database of “do-not-contact” destinations.

1 22. The method of claim 21 wherein said database comprises listing “do-not-
2 contact” destinations in accordance with categories determined by demographic
3 characteristics.

1 23. The method of claim 19 which further comprises overriding said blocking
2 function based on predetermined exemptions.

1 24. The method of claim 23 wherein said overriding comprises entering an
2 authorization code, and generating a record confirming the exemption.

1 25. A method of preventing delivery of certain telecommunications in a
2 communication network comprising:
3 initiating a telecommunication message on behalf of a sender for transmission
4 via the communication network to a proposed destination address;
5 screening the telecommunication message at a network node to compare the
6 proposed destination address with a periodically updated database of undesirable
7 destination addresses; and
8 taking remedial action to prevent delivery of a selected telecommunication
9 message having the proposed destination address listed on said periodically updated
10 database.

1 26. The method of claim 25 wherein said initiating comprises activating
2 automated equipment for initiating the telecommunication message, and said remedial
3 action comprises automatically blocking delivery of said selected telecommunication
4 message.

1 27. The method of claim 25 wherein said initiating comprises using a human
2 agent for initiating the telecommunication message, and said remedial action
3 comprises automatically blocking delivery of said selected telecommunication
4 message.

1 28. The method of claim 25 wherein said initiating comprises using a human
2 agent for initiating the telecommunication message, and said remedial action
3 comprises giving an instruction to said human agent to terminate the transmission.

1 29. The method of claim 28 wherein said remedial action comprises an
2 audible instruction to said human agent.

1 30. The method of claim 29 wherein said audible instruction is a verbal
2 instruction or a coded signal.

1 31. The method of claim 25 which further comprises:
2 providing a directory listing of subscribing message senders;
3 identifying particular telecommunication messages transmitted from said
4 subscribing message senders; and
5 performing said screening and said remedial action only with respect to said
6 particular telecommunication messages from said subscribing message senders.

1 32. The method of claim 31 which further comprises maintaining a common
2 periodically updated database of "do-not-contact" destination addresses, said
3 common updated database accessible to said subscribing message senders.

1 33. A system for providing an updated "do-not-contact" database service
2 available to third party subscribers sending telecommunications via a
3 communications network, comprising:
4 a periodically updated database for listing the "do-not-contact" destinations;
5 a node for receiving and forwarding selected telecommunications from a third
6 party subscriber along the communications network to a proposed destination
7 address, said node having access to said database for comparing the proposed
8 destination address with the "do-not-contact" destinations in said database; and
9 blocking means for preventing delivery of said selected telecommunications
10 to any "do-not-contact" destinations in said database.

1 34. The system of claim 33 wherein said node is incorporated as part of the
2 communication premises of a third party subscriber or its agent.

1 34. The system of claim 33 wherein said node is incorporated as part of the
2 communications network separate and apart from the communication premises of a
3 third party subscriber or its message originator.

1 35. The system of claim 33 wherein said database is incorporated as part of
2 the communication premises of a third party subscriber or its message originator.

1 36. The system of claim 33 wherein said database is incorporated as part of
2 the communications network separate and apart from the communication premises of
3 a third party subscriber or its message originator.

1 37. The system of claim 36 wherein said database is accessible to other third
2 party subscribers.